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Dear Professor Sir Malcolm Grant

As the leader of Leeds City Council I would like to voice deep concern, following the release of figures proposing an overall £84m reduction in funding for health services in the city.

In a letter released by NHS England's Director of Strategic Finance, health colleagues were invited to a regional workshop forming part of his review of NHS allocations policy with clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), which also includes details on potential future funding and allocations from 2013-2014.

Documents released prior to the workshop include information on funding that if implemented, would result in the multi-million pound reduction to Leeds CCGs allocations. Given we are already facing unprecedented budget cuts from central Government to our council, if these reductions were to go ahead, the impact on our city would be massive, and could have a significant detrimental effect on the integrated approach we are taking with our partners to tackle and reduce health inequalities.

Individual CCGs would be affected as follows:

Leeds North CCG - reduced allocation of around £19 million (8.84%) – This would equate to a fall in the reduction per head from £1144 to £1051.

Leeds West CCG - reduced allocation of around £26 million (7.35%) – a reduction per head from £1063/ head to £990/ head.

Leeds South & East CCG - reduced allocation of around £39 million (12.87%) – a reduction per head from £1309/ head to £1160/ head.

The figures also highlight a large disparity in the level of funding that could be provided to the north of England compared to the south of England as part of its CCG allocations.

If given the go-ahead at the suggested level, the north of England would receive a reduction of 3.84% (approx. £722 million) in its funding, with the south being given an increase of 1.78% (approx. £283million).

Whilst I am clearly disappointed at these proposed reductions, I am also concerned that, in communicating these plans only to health colleagues, NHS England does not recognise the Local Authority as the important strategic leader for health issues that it has become.

Speculative figures such as these released at such an early part of the consultation and without any involvement of key partners, do little to assist Local Authorities in shaping and delivering the new responsibilities devolved to them as part of the Health and Social Care Act. Under the leadership of the Council, Leeds has developed a strong Health and Wellbeing Board which brings together health partners from across the city and strives to improve the lives of people through the provision of integrated services, using our information wisely and making the best use of the "Leeds Pound"

Leeds aspires to be the best city in the UK for health and wellbeing and as a UNESCO Child Friendly City and aspirant WHO Age Friendly City we will do everything we can to protect the health and wellbeing of children, young people and adults in Leeds by making sure that these draconian reductions do not go ahead and that there is no devaluing of our "Leeds Pound".

We shall of course be ensuring that we have a strong delegation representing Leeds at the NHS England workshop on 13 September.

We are doing everything we can to ensure that services and commissioning arrangements are fully integrated on the ground. Yet it is clear that there is no such procedure in place nationally to ensure that places that have already been hit hard by reductions in funding to the Local Authority are not also hit by severe reductions in NHS funding.

We hope that through this and further consultation, NHS England will fully take on board and listen to the views and concerns raised around these proposals, before any final decisions are made.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Wakefield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Councillor Keith Wakefield
Leader of Leeds City Council